Public Information Office
Kalanimoku Building, Room 130
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

NEWS RELEASE

Contact Andy Monden, O`ahu, 587-0230
Aulani Wilhelm, O`ahu, 587-0330 or 361-0650 (pgr.)
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KUHIO BEACH SAND PUMPING EVALUATION NOW UNDERWAY, WAIKIKI

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, through its contractor Edward Noda and Associates, has begun a small scale, offshore sand pumping evaluation at the Diamond Head end of Kuhio Beach, Waikiki. The evaluation is part of an initial design phase of the planned Kuhio Beach renourishment project.

The two-week long evaluation will test the feasibility of using sand deposits located 1,500 feet offshore of Kuhio Beach to renourish and widen the beach for public use. The evaluation will test both the quality and quantity (supply) of the available offshore sand and will provide detailed environmental and engineering data to be used in the actual restoration phase of the project which is anticipated to begin in 2001.

The evaluation began on Thursday, February 10 and will continue through Thursday, February 24. During this time, the Diamond Head basin of Kuhio beach (between the Kapahulu Avenue storm drain and the groin fronting `Ohua Avenue along Kalakaua Avenue) will be closed to public access.

During the test, upwards of 5,000 cubic yards of sand will be collected by a hydraulic dredge which will pump the material through an 8-inch pipeline to a discharge point in the Diamond Head basin. The sand will then be spread over the current sand beach. The process will not impact the nearshore water quality.

If the evaluation is successful, up to 20,000 cubic yards of sand would eventually be pumped using this method to renourish the entire stretch of Kuhio Beach from the Kapahulu groin to the area fronting the Duke Kahanamoku statue. An estimated $3 million will be needed to complete the full renourishment, which will also include replacing the old, crumbling cribwalls surrounding the beach's two swimming basins. The new walls will make the area safer for swimmers and improve water quality through improved flushing and water circulation.

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